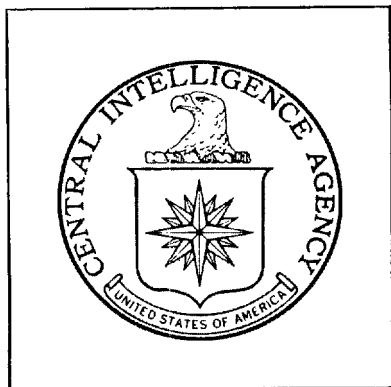


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Declass Review by
NIMA / DoD

Imagery Analysis Report

Dredging Sites in the Lena Gold Trust Area, USSR

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DDI/IAR 85010

DATE AUGUST 1967

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DREDGING SITES IN THE
LENA GOLD TRUST AREA, USSR

SUMMARY

This study of the Lena Gold Trust area revealed six active areas and one inactive area of placer mining within a 200-nautical-mile radius of the Trust headquarters, at Bodaybo, USSR. A total of 17 dredging sites were identified within the active mining areas.

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INTRODUCTION

This report is based on KEYHOLE photographic coverage of the Lena Gold Trust Area, USSR. A search was conducted to locate placer mining areas within a 200-nautical-mile radius of the Lena Gold Trust headquarters located at Bodaybo (57-45N 114-10E). The imagery covered approximately 90 percent of the search area; however, an assessment of all valleys and stream beds could not be accomplished due to image obliquity.

The purpose of this project was to determine the number of gold dredging sites and the size of each dredge operating at each site. A recent report stated that 22 dredges had been prepared [] for work within the Lena Gold Trust Area. 1/ Good quality KEYHOLE photography [] has enabled observation of considerable activity and identification of 17 dredges within the six areas of active mining. The dredges ranged in length from 60 to 190 feet and in width from 40 to 90 feet.

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All measurements have been made by NPIC Technical Intelligence Division with the exception of those indicated by an asterisk (*), which were made by the IAS analyst and should be considered approximate. The NPIC/TID measurements are considered to be accurate within + 10 feet for linear dimensions. The dimensions given in this report do not include the hoisting units or the tailing flumes. The heights of the dredges could not be measured accurately because of overlapping shadows, but an approximate measurement of 20-40 feet in height above water level was given.

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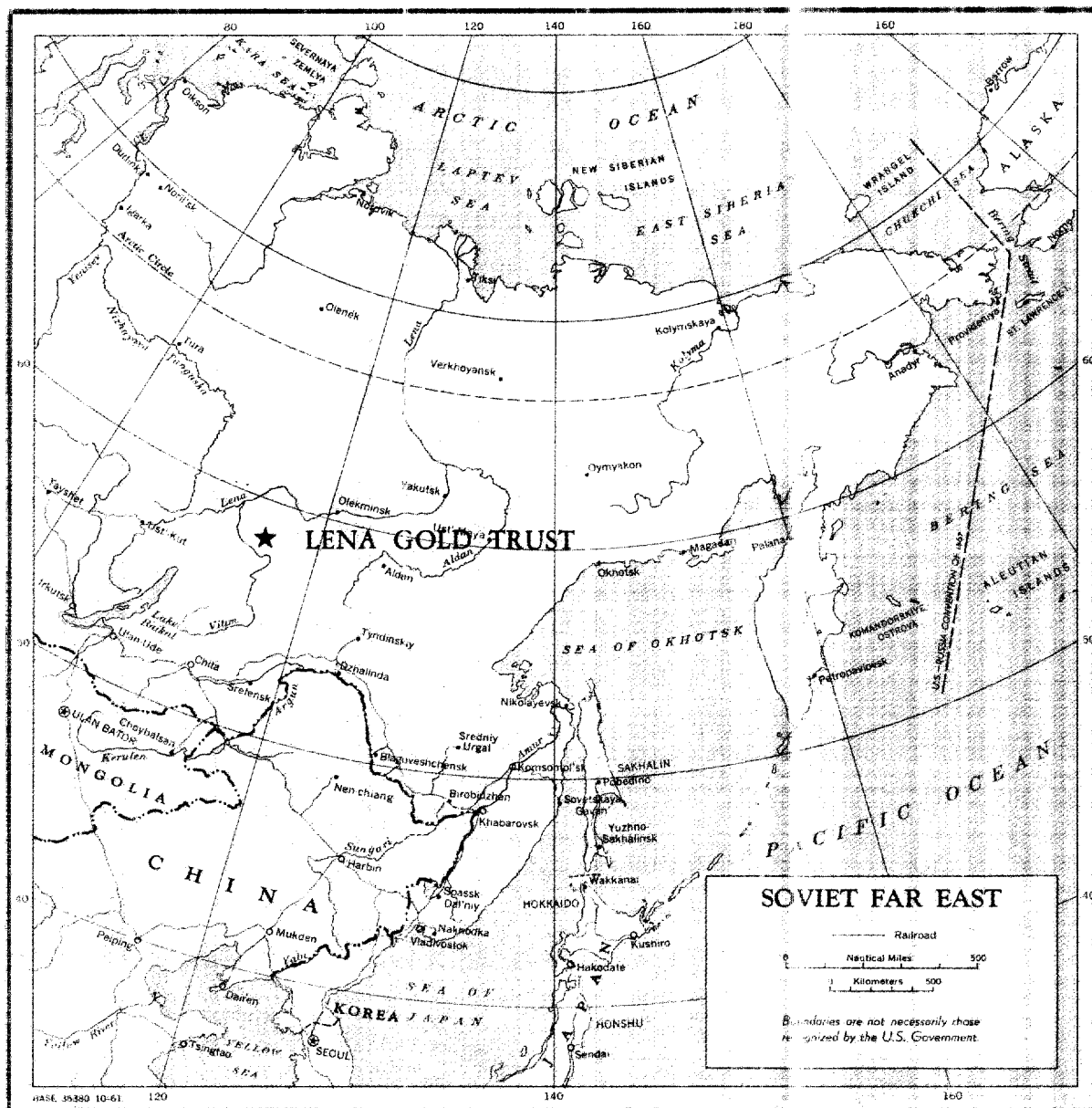


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP

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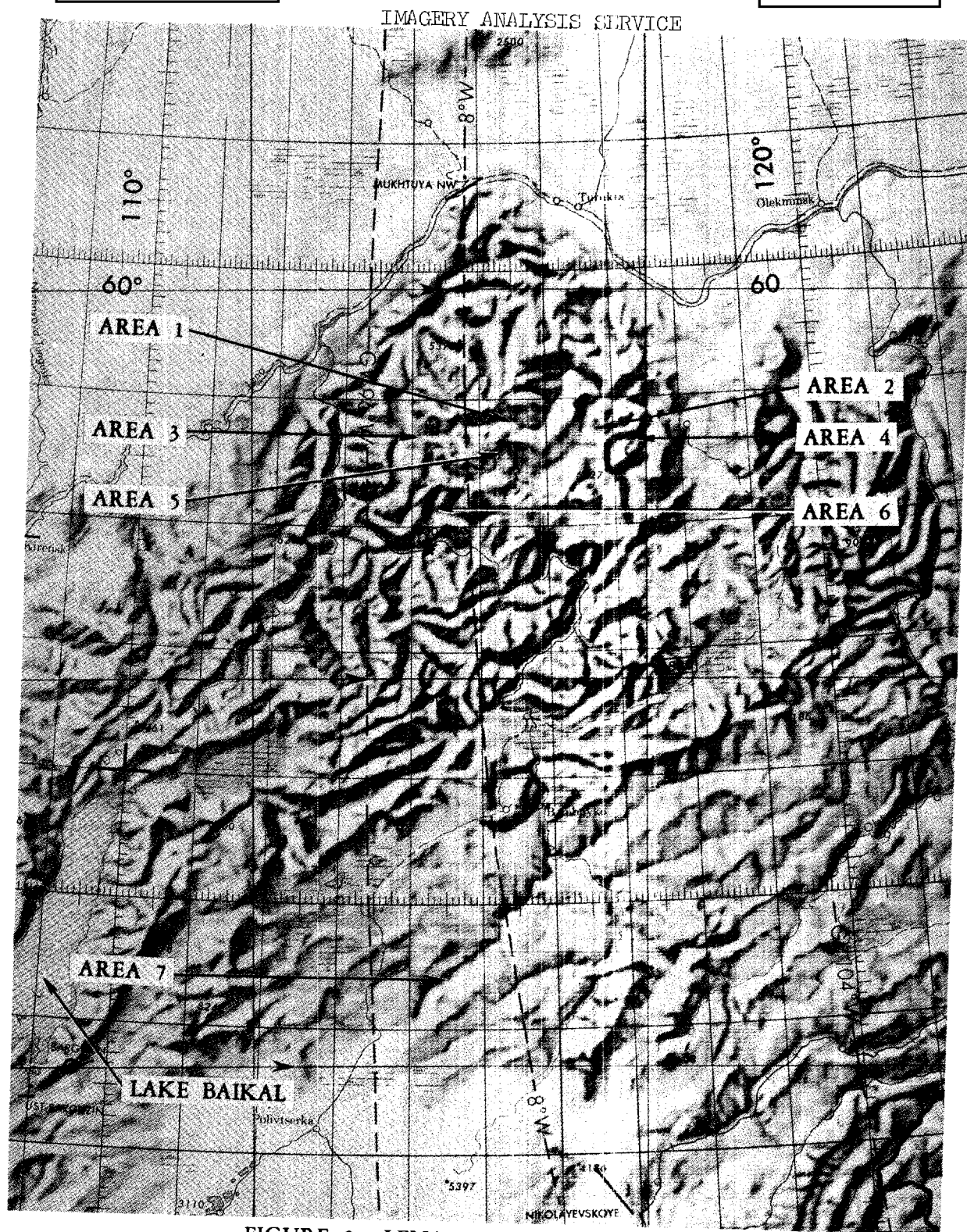


FIGURE 2. LENA GOLD TRUST AREA

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MINING AREA 1, (FIGURE 3)

This area is located on the Khomolkho River approximately 75 nm north-northeast of Bodaybo, USSR, at 58-44N 116-50E. The placer mining area extends for approximately 1 nm along the Khomolkho River, which flows in a northeasterly direction into the Zhuya River. Only one dredge (140 by 90 by 40 feet* high) could be clearly identified. It is located in a pond formed by an earthen dam at the downstream end of the mining area. The mining area appeared active, from the amount of light-toned tailings noted in the immediate vicinity. Trenching for geological exploration was noted within the surrounding area.

MINING AREA 2, (FIGURE 4)

This area is located on a small tributary of the Zhuya River, approximately 105 nm northeast of Bodaybo, USSR, at 58-46N 116-43E. The mining area extends along the tributary in a northeasterly direction, upriver for approximately 4 nm. Only one dredge (140 by 60 by 35 feet high) could be identified within the mining area. From the light-toned tailings noted, the mining area appears active.

MINING AREA 3, (FIGURE 5)

This area is located on the Bol'shay Stream approximately 53 nm north of Bodaybo, USSR, at 58-43N 114-06E. The mining area was located from earlier photographic coverage. However, no active dredging sites could be identified within the mining area at that time. No activity was noted in the surrounding area, and the tailings appear dark as if overgrown with vegetation.

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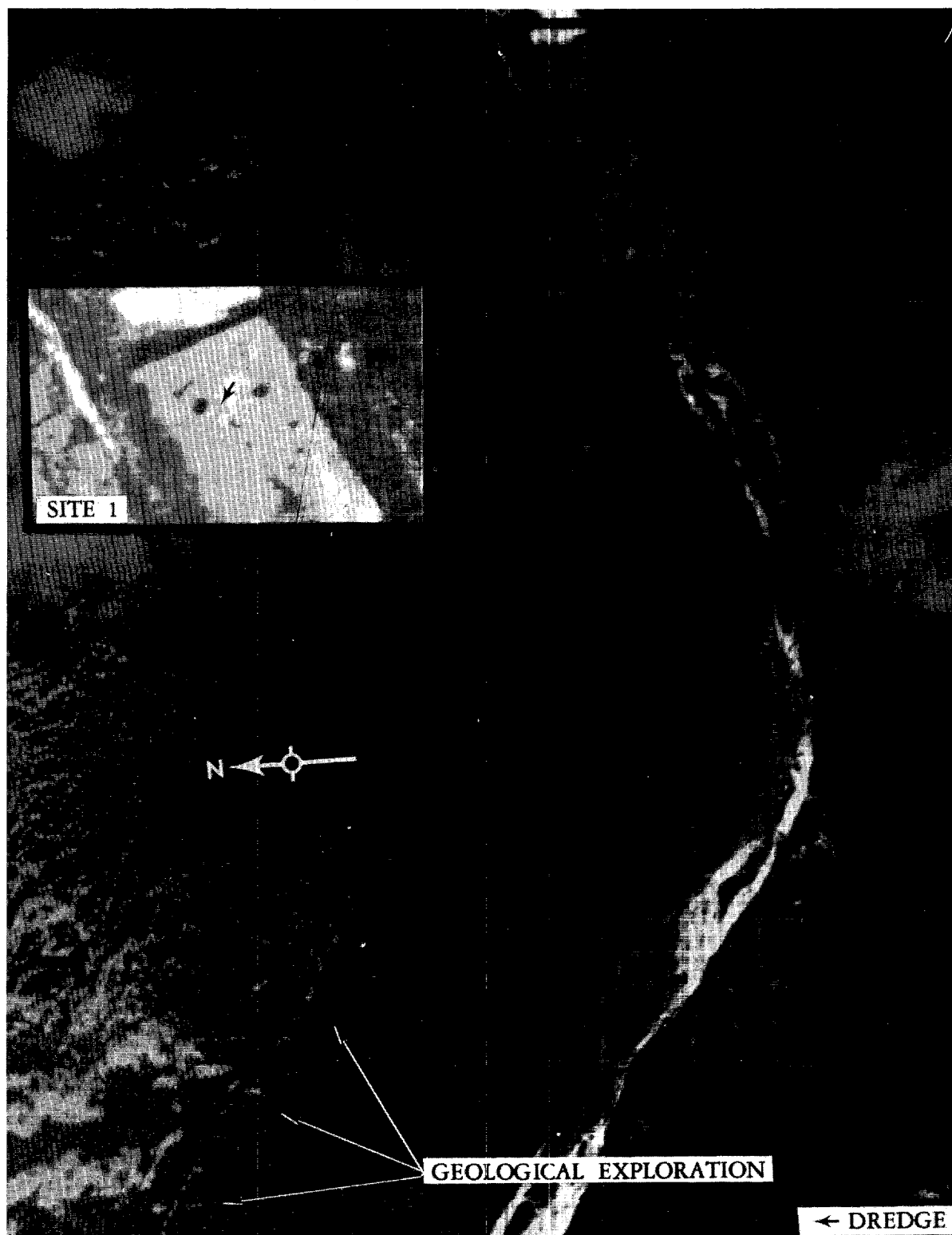


FIGURE 3. LENA GOLD TRUST, USSR, MINING AREA 1, 58-44N 115-36E

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FIGURE 4. LENA GOLD TRUST, USSR, MINING AREA 2, 58-46N 116-43E

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FIGURE 5. LENA GOLD TRUST, USSR, MINING AREA 3, 58-43N 114-06E

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MINING AREA 4, (FIGURE 6)

This area is located on a small tributary of the Chenchu River approximately 120 nm northeast of Bodaybo, USSR, at 58-37N 117-18E. The placer mining area extends along the river bed for approximately 1 nm, and from the amount of light-toned tailings noted, the area appears active. Only one dredge (140 by 60 by 35 feet* high) could be identified. An area of shaft mining is located north of the river bed, and it appears to be active. Core drilling, to determine geologic formations, was also noted in the surrounding area.

MINING AREA 5, (FIGURE 7)

This area is located on the Vacha River approximately 60 nm north-northeast of Bodaybo, USSR, at 58-33N 115-24E. The Vacha River flows in a southerly direction into the Zhuyt River. Only two dredging sites could be identified. Site 1 is located near the village of Kropotkin and the dredge measures 180 by 90 by 40 feet* high. Site 2 is located near the village of Petrovskiy, and the dredge measures 180 by 90 by 40 feet* high. Both sites appear quite active from the amount of light-toned tailings in their immediate vicinity. Limited trenching for geological exploration is located in the northern portion of the mining area.

MINING AREA 6, (FIGURES 8, 9)

This area is located approximately 10 nm north of Bodaybo, USSR, at 58-08N 114-24E. This mining area is the largest of the seven located and covers approximately 25 nm of river bed. The area appears very active from the amount of light-toned tailings observed along the river. Seven separate dredging sites (Figure 9), all with dredges measuring 180 by 90 by 40 feet high, were clearly identified. Some shaft mining is being carried out in the northeastern portion of the mining area. Trenching for geological exploration was identified within the surrounding area.

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MINING AREA 7, (FIGURES 10,11)

This area is located approximately 180 nm south of Bodaybo, USSR, at 54-23N 113-35E. Five dredging sites (Figure 11) could be clearly identified within the placer mining area. The dredge located at Site 1 measures 130 by 60 by 35 feet* high, and the remaining four dredges measure 60 by 40 by 20 feet* high. Some shaft mining is being carried on just south of the river. The large amount of light-toned tailings located in the immediate vicinity indicates that the area is active.

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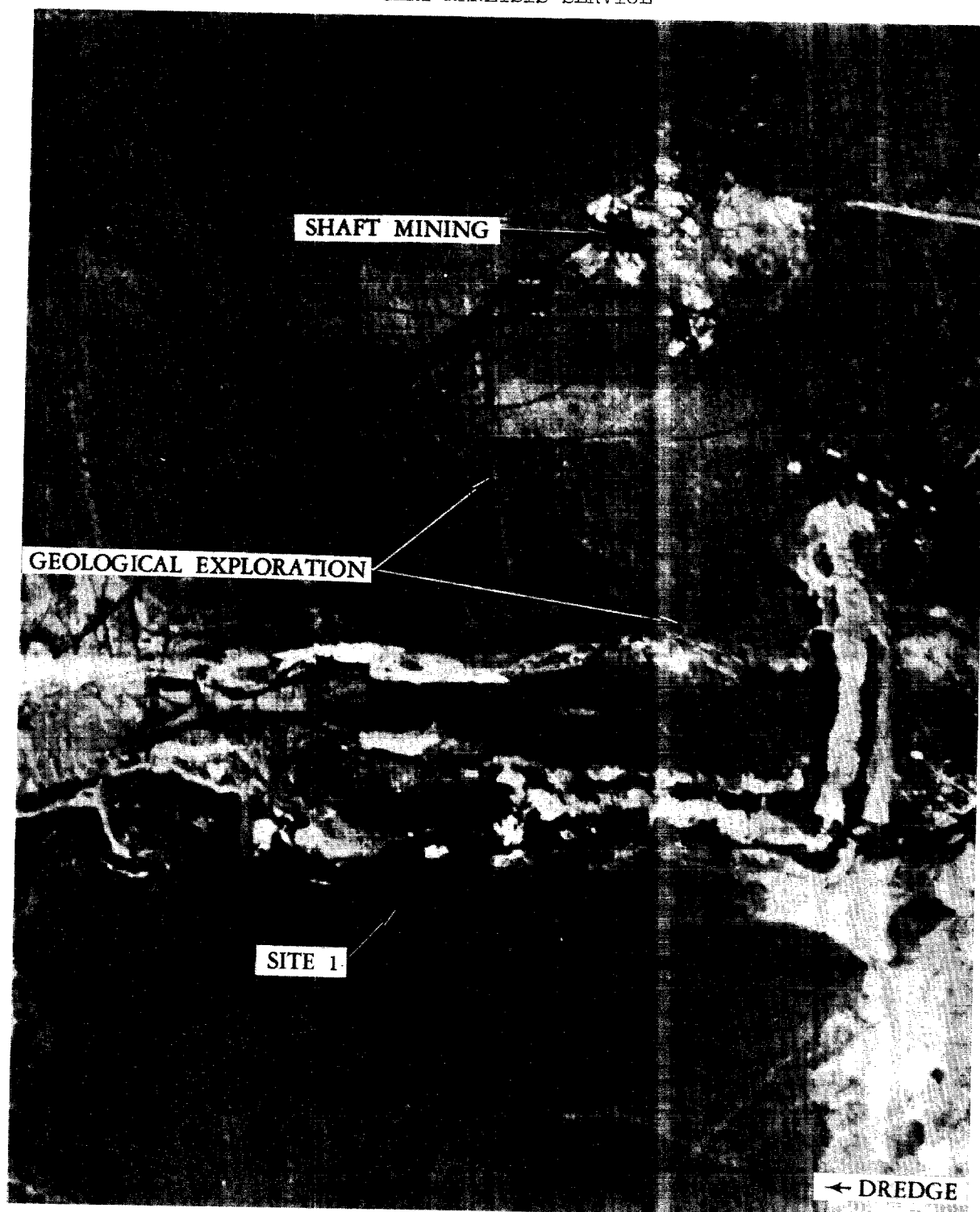


FIGURE 6. LENA GOLD TRUST, USSR, MINING AREA 4, 58-37N 117-18E

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FIGURE 7. LENA GOLD TRUST, USSR, MINING AREA 5, 58-33N 115-21E

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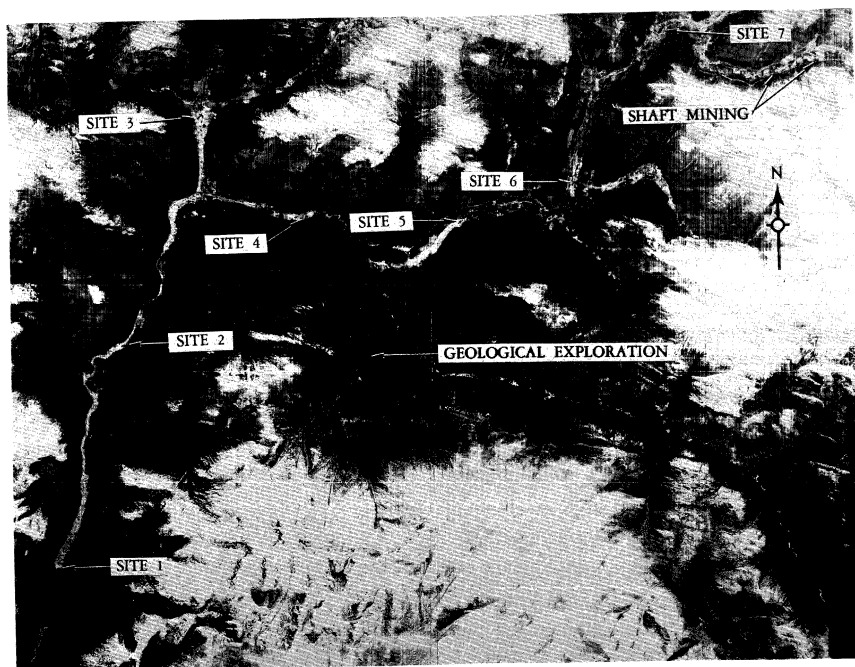


FIGURE 8. LENA GOLD TRUST, USSR, MINING AREA 6, 58-08N 114-24E

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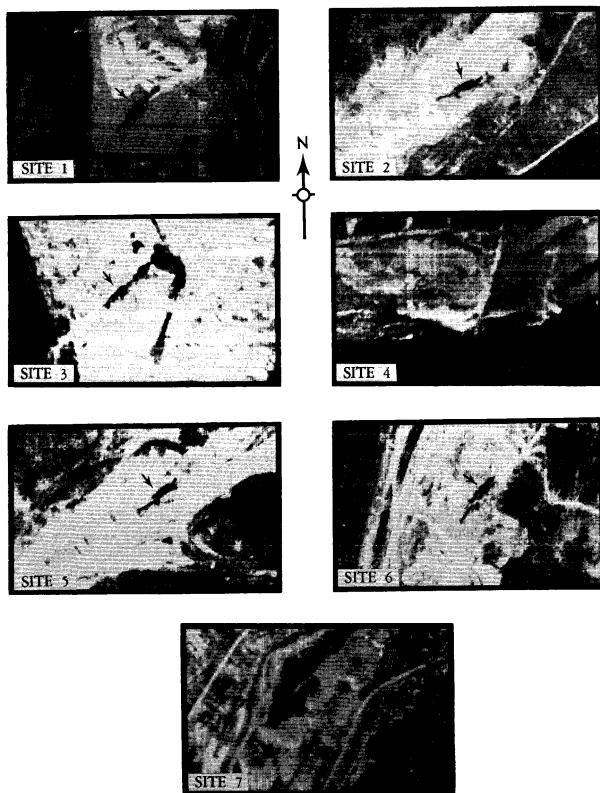


FIGURE 9. MINING AREA 6

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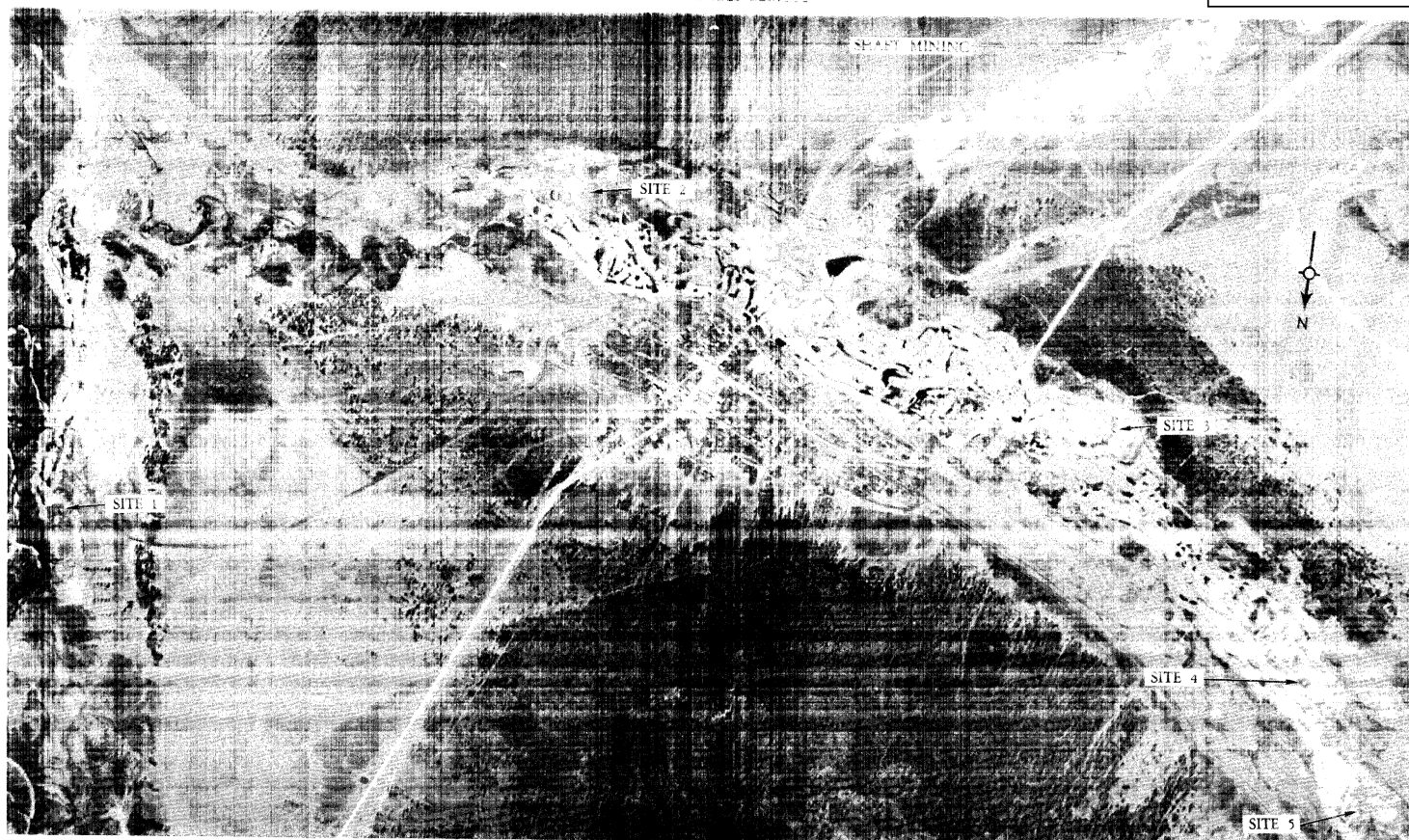


FIGURE 10. LENA GOLD TRUST, USSR, MINING AREA 7, 54-25N 113-35E

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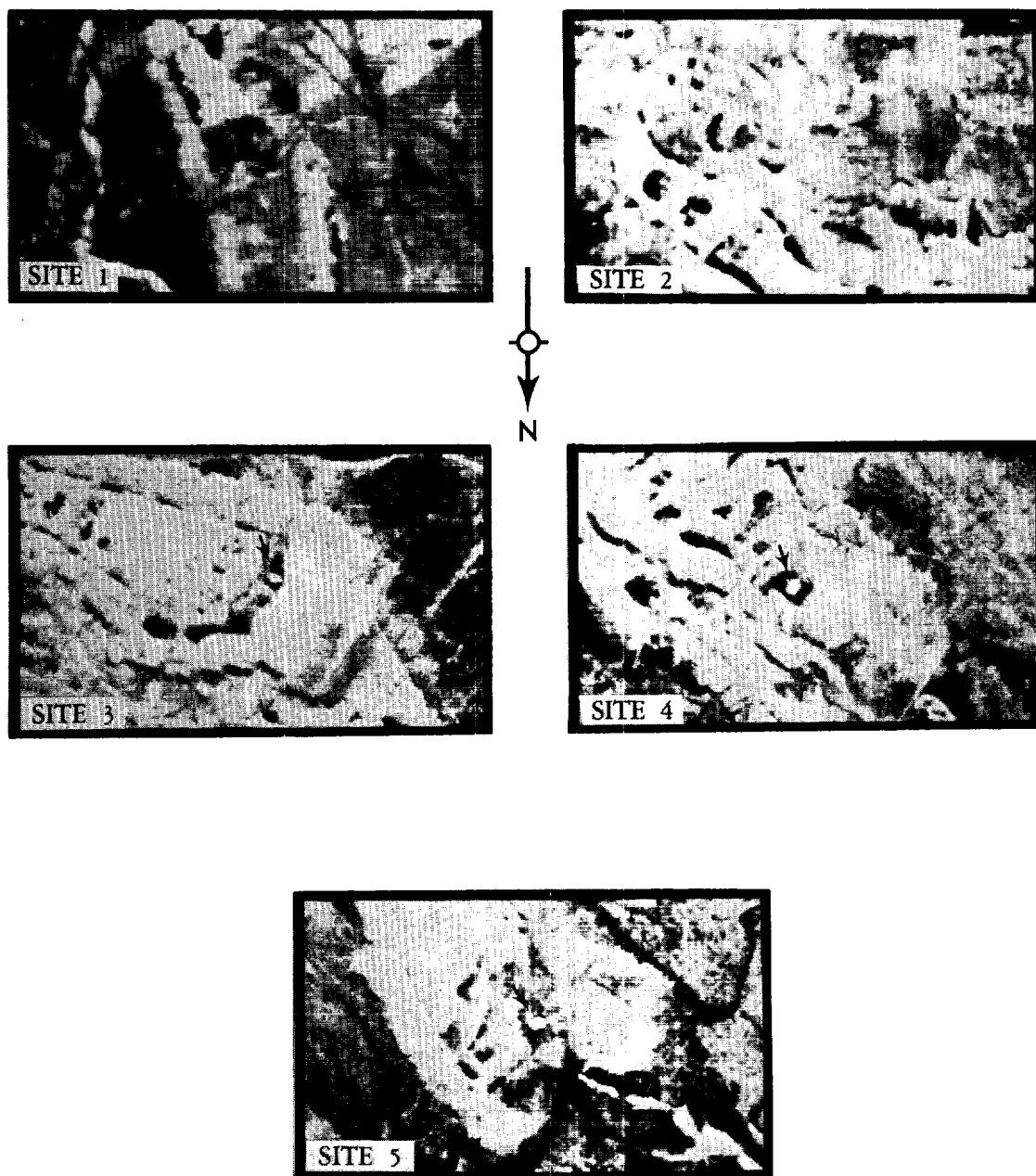


FIGURE 11. MINING AREA 7

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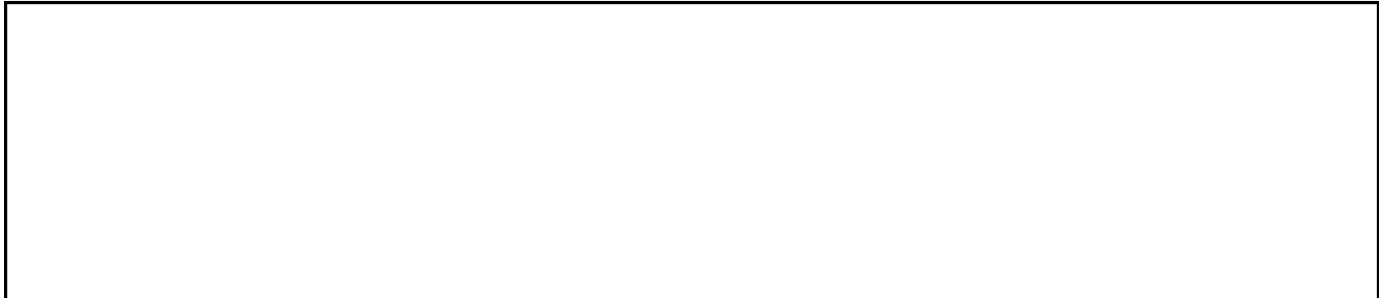
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REFERENCES

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Maps

ACIC. USAF Global Navigation and Planning Chart, Sheet GNC-5N, scale 1:5,000,000, 4th ed., 21 November 1966 (UNCLASSIFIED).

Documents

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Requirement

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